

John F. Kennedy School

Parent Orientation

September 1, 2011

Mrs. Dempsey

Grade 3-4

Introduction

- Graduated from Monmouth College 2008
 - Bachelor of the Arts in Elementary Education, Science concentration, Middle School Endorsement
- Married to Mark, awaiting our first baby :)
- 4th year teaching, all here at JFK

Morning Activities

- Attendance—Arrive no earlier than 7:55 A.M. In classroom by 8:20 A.M. School ends at 3:10 P.M.
- Power Lunch Money
 - Money kept in child's account
 - Please label envelope with child's first & last name, class, & "lunch money"
 - Prepay at least 10 days at a time: use a computer to keep track of account or how much money you have sent.
 - Your child needs to know if he/she is hot lunch or sack lunch each day.
 - Lunch Card: kept at school in locker on lanyard
- Hot Lunch= \$1.85, extra= \$0.60, Breakfast w/ milk= \$0.85, Milk= \$0.30

SUBJECTS

Reading

- 6 themes in our series: each theme includes 5 stories from various genres, including 6 or more vocabulary words.
- A vocabulary and/or comprehension quiz may be given on the week's stories.
- Oral, silent, & partner reading of the classroom stories are done during the week, with class discussions.
- Groups: Students are divided into groups based on reading/spelling abilities. Abilities are determined by test assessment and classroom performance. Groups can change with students' abilities.
- Centers: Part of lessons in Reading, spelling, grammar. Teacher, technology, & two activities.

Reading continued...

- Accelerated Reader: Your child will be accumulating points from books read at school and at home. I expect your child to read at home every night for at least 15 minutes from the accelerated reading book. Your child is expected to read at least 2 books per month based on their reading level.
- "Read to Adult Slip": To encourage reading at home, your child is required to read each class story at home to an adult, and have a slip signed. The slip is due by the end of the week, which allows you to choose the best night that works for you. A slip not returned results in a missing assignment minor.

Grammar

- Discussion & practice of sentence structure, paragraphs, parts of speech, nouns, verbs, adjectives, capitalization, & punctuation that go along with the class stories.

Spelling

- 10-20 words total on each weekly list. A sheet will be sent home with lists of words for each theme in advance for home practice.
 - Lists may also be found on class website & www.spellingcity.com
- Pretest on Wednesday-if your child receives a 100% , he/she will not have to take the Posttest on Friday. This encourages studying during the week as opposed to "cramming" the night before.
- I give a **bonus word** with each list. If your child correctly spells the bonus word, he/she earns a wildcat. The bonus word does not replace a regular word.

Science

- Topics covered: Life Cycles of Plants & Animals, Space, & Water
- Chapters usually take 2 weeks to cover.
- An in-class review sheet & game will be done before every test.
- Science is challenging: make connections between books & real life.

Social Studies

- Discussion of various communities in U.S. & world.
- The same procedures & assessments as science.
- Difficult vocabulary (science & s.s.). In-class & at-home review of words is important.
- Weekly Reader?????????

Math

- The text starts with a review of addition & subtraction. These skills must be practiced in order to be stored in long-term memory.
- Topics covered: place value, measurement, time, money, shapes, multiplication, & division.
- A chapter lasts about 2 weeks and a test is given over the covered material. For questions where "work" is shown, partial credit is always given.
- Timed-tests will be given daily for skill retention & review (+, -, x).

PBIS

- Positive Behavioral Intervention System
- Wildcats given as positive reward. Can "buy" things from PBIS Store with them.
- Minors/Majors: 1st 5=reteach detention, 2nd 5=5:15 Principal detention, 3rd 5=5:15 detention
- Celebrations: movie, tech day, assembly, field day/picnic
- Whole School

Homework

- Usually everyday we will have an assignment in each subject. If your child uses his/her time wisely, then he/she will not have much daily homework.
- I do give assignments to be completed at home.
- Please check your child's assignment notebook each night to see what work your child may have yet to complete. This also helps you see what is being done in class.
- Homework blog, which is updated daily, can be found on our class [website](#).

Missing Assignments

- Assignments are considered late when they are not handed in at the time of collection in the morning.
- A minor is earned noting the missing assignment(s).
 - Student allowed time during recess to work on assignment.
 - Minor slip must be signed & returned the following day with the assignment(s).

Do-Over Assignments

- If your child receives a 69% or lower ("D" or "F") on any daily assignment, he/she is allowed a "do-over."
- If the assignment is completed correctly this time and signed by an adult, the child will receive a 75% ("C") instead of the previous grade.
- This is only on daily assignments, not quizzes, tests, or projects.

Grading & Report Cards

- Report cards are given every 9 weeks.
- Scale:
 - 100-90 A
 - 89-80 B
 - 79-70 C
 - 69-60 D
 - 59-0 F
- Daily work=1 grade; quizzes=2 grades; tests & special projects=3 grades
- If there is no grade on the paper, then no grade was recorded.
- Check Powerschool for grades, direction & log-ins were sent home.

Attendance

- Being on time and present is a good habit to help your child develop early on in school.
- If your child is ill, please keep him/her home so as not to spread germs. Please call the school, 815-664-4601 before 9:00 A.M. on day of absence.
- When you call you can request another student bring home homework, or homework should be picked up.
- I do not expect to have all "sick homework" completed the next day, just in a timely manner.

Extra Clothes

- Each child needs to have a complete set of clothes in his/her locker in case of an emergency.

Snack Time!

- A "Snack Calendar" is sent home near the end of each month for the following month.
- Each child has 1 day out of the month when he/she is responsible for snack for the entire class.
- Please send pre-packaged snacks in order to save time.

Recess/PE

- Recess & PE will be outside daily depending on the weather.
- Every child must have the appropriate clothing for the weather, otherwise they will not be sent outside.
- It is important to have gloves, hats, warm coats, and boots (if necessary) at school
- Comfortable, safe shoes are also important (i.e. no flip-flops)

Birthdays

- Your child may bring a treat for share with the class for his/her birthday.
- Treats may be of their choice, but school rules require the treat to be "store bought" and not "homemade".
- If your child's birthday does not fall within the school year, he/she may celebrate it at a time of his/her choice.

Information & Emergency Contact

- I will keep an information sheet and emergency contact sheet in my classroom in case I need to contact someone during the day.

Newsletter & Book Orders

- I usually send home a newsletter at the end of the week.
- Book orders are usually sent home once a month. These are optional.

Contact Me

- Mrs. Anna Dempsey
- School Phone: 815-664-4601, ext:4304
- District Phone: 815-664-4242
- Email address: annac@sv99.org

Any Questions

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